



# THE NEW JERSEY ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION



## Delaware Creates Italian Commission

On Monday, August 16, Governor Minner of Delaware signed legislation that formed the new **Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture**, patterned after the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. Several Commissioners from New Jersey and Italian Consul General Lorenzo Mott of Philadelphia held discussions with representatives from the Delaware Legislature to assist and support the formation of this new Commission. This Commission will seek to promote

and preserve the Italian Heritage in the State of Delaware.

The New Jersey Commission congratulates Governor Minner and the sponsors of the Delaware Legislature, which include the Representatives DiPinto, Ennis, LoFink, Ulbrich, Van Sant, George, and Viola; and the Senators McDowell, Sorenson and Simpson.

This event is significant as it demonstrates that more state governments are recognizing the importance of assisting the large Italian American communities to promote positive images of

Italians and promulgate the Italian culture. Please visit the DE website -- [www.legis.state.de.us](http://www.legis.state.de.us) - to search for the legislation on the "Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage & Culture" for more information.



Governor Minner of Delaware

## Creation of New Italian Language Committee

Following the advice of Italian American Community leaders, the Commission resolved in August of 2004 to launch a new Committee that would focus on the issues related to the teaching of the Italian language in New Jersey. While the Commission is in the process of launching the "Universality of Italian Heritage" Curriculum, this curriculum is designed for all subject areas as an infusion of

history, contributions and famous figures. The new Committee, named the Promotion of the Italian Language Committee, will research and seek to advance Italian at a broader level throughout the State. As the Commission's Higher Education Committee will continue to focus on teacher training and professional development for Italian educators, the new Committee will begin its work

by assessing the numbers of students at the K-12 levels in the State of New Jersey and identifying all Italian language teachers in the State of NJ.

As the Department of Education is conducting a World Languages Survey for K-12 schools, the Committee will work with the DOE to analyze the data, so that plans can be formulated. Commissioner Catherine Vignale will serve as the Chair.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Italian Convocation Report Issued



New Jersey Italian and Italian American  
Heritage Commission

Report and Survey  
on the

3<sup>rd</sup> Italian American Leadership Convocation

March 27, 2004

Available on Commission Website



The Commission released its Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Italian American Leadership Convocation, which featured an extensive working session survey of future activities for the Italian American community in the State. The Report, available on the Commission's upgraded website provides the public with ideas and focal points from Italian American community leaders

regarding the needs in the community. Topics suggested included promoting the Italian language, building a statewide "Casa Italiana", organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Congress of Italian American Organizations and promoting business and cultural exchanges between New Jersey and Italy. These ideas will be developed by the Commission and will be addressed again at the NJ Italian Congress in October.



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### Chairman's Message

Given the tremendous success of the Commission's programs and activities over the past year, the Commission is moving to expand its staff and capabilities in order to move to larger-scale projects. To this effect, the Commission has appointed two outstanding young

individuals to Associate and Assistant Director levels, who will provide operational support to our Executive Director. The Commission has also retained the services of a professional curriculum editor from our ranks of curriculum writers, in order to ensure that the Phase I Pilot of the Curriculum Project will be ready for launching this September in a select number of school districts.



**Commission Chairman Larry Paragano**

The Commission has also been deepening its relationships with other State governments, the Italian Government and other NJ State agencies to promote the Italian Heritage. Recently, Delaware created a Commission for Italian Heritage, largely based on New Jersey's model. With our new resources and relationships, the Commission hopes to expand its activities in the next months.

### Commission Upcoming Events

- **September 2004**  
*Launch of Pilot Curriculum Project in Selected Schools – Field test of Phase I Pilot of Italian Curriculum begins*
- **October 23, 2004 -**  
*NJ Congress of Italian American Organizations 1<sup>st</sup> statewide convention at Rutgers University*
- **October 25-31, 2004**  
*Age of Galileo Symposium - Public events at Rutgers U*
- **December 4, 2004 -**  
*History of Italian American Discrimination Conference Public event at Seton Hall*
- **March 19, 2005 -**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Italian American Leadership Convocation Public event Camden College*

### “Teach the Teachers” Program at MSU

On Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5th, at Montclair State University, teachers of all levels and disciplines had the unique opportunity to engage in fruitful dialogue about the growing field of Italian American Studies and the state of Italian language instruction in the state of New Jersey. Entitled “The Teach the Teachers Days” the programs were sponsored by the NJ Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, the National Italian American Foundation, the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America, and the Institute for the Humanities at Montclair State University.

Friday's program on Italian Studies was informative and very

engaging as it focused on the teaching of Italian studies in the schools. Dr. Carol Bonomo Albright, professor at Harvard University's Extension School, welcomed attendees, while Mr. Roger Marinzoli, Executive Director of the Commission, led a workshop on the Curriculum Project. Dr. Edvige Giunta from New Jersey City State University held a workshop on "Memoir, History, and Community in the Classroom", followed by Dr. Andrea Mantineo, director of the Italian language newspaper America Oggi, who provided a lecture on the role of modern Italy in the world politics arena.

Saturday's workshops focused on the teaching and the promotion of the Italian language in NJ and



**Programs held at Dickson Hall at MSU**

featured Dr. Judy Frommer from Harvard University, Dr. Andrea Dini from Montclair State University, Janis Jensen of the World Languages Committee of the NJ Dept. of Education, and Phyllis Pizzolato of the Italian Teachers Association of NJ.

Over 75 Italian teachers attended both days of workshops and received credit for professional development hours. The event was organized by Commissioner Marisa Trubiano.



## Associate Director Appointed

In its efforts to expand its capabilities to serve the community the Commission has appointed an Associate Director for Programs, Funding and Public Relations. Mr. Anthony Carabelli joins the Commission from a NJ government background, where he served as the Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Ewing Township. Mr. Carabelli also served as a staffer in the New Jersey State Assembly and as a researcher for the New Jersey Government Records Council. He is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, with a background in Politics and Culture. He also holds a Masters Degree in



Associate Director Anthony Carabelli

International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, with a specialization in law and economics.

Mr. Carabelli hopes to build and develop the Commission because of his deep personal interest in the Italian Heritage. He is a Third Generation Italian American from New Jersey, who has traveled to Italy many times. He also is a graduate of the Rutgers University Urbino Study Abroad Program in Italy.

The Commission looks forward to working with Mr. Carabelli and believes that his government background and enthusiasm will help bring the Commission to the next level. "To execute some of the project that we have in the pipeline for the State of New Jersey," explained Executive Director Roger Marinzoli, "the Commission will need additional manpower and resources. Mr. Carabelli's academic background and experiences are the perfect fit."

## New Assistant Director

The Commission would like to congratulate Ms. Gina Pezzicola on her promotion from Executive Secretary to Assistant Director for Programs and Finance. Ms. Pezzicola served the Commission since June 2003 and has excelled in developing and implementing programs for the Commission. She also has had the responsibility of managing the state finances for operations. In her new role, her duties will expand to new areas,



Assistant Director Gina Pezzicola

including the retention of an internship staff to manage research projects for the Commission. Ms. Pezzicola is a graduate of Douglass College at Rutgers University and an alumna of the Rutgers University Urbino Study Abroad Program in Italy.

## CAVOUR'S COLUMN

The demand for promoting the Italian Heritage is growing. As the Commission continues to reach out to the 2 million Italian Americans in the State of New Jersey, this desire to experience and preserve the Italian and Italian American Heritage becomes more apparent.



By A. Roger  
Marinzoli

Executive Director  
of the New Jersey  
Italian and Italian  
American Heritage  
Commission

This Column is named after Cavour, founder of "Il Risorgimento", the 1847 Italian Newspaper, which promoted Italian unity, heritage and identity.

The surveys of the March 2004 Italian American Leadership Convocation demonstrate the areas in which the Italian American community is advising the Commission to focus attention. One of the most interesting recommendations was the development of a statewide Congress of Italian American Organizations, in the form of a convention. The purpose behind this gathering of leaders would be to assist in the coordination of projects, the exchange of ideas and the development of networks.

Often, the over 400 Italian American organizations in the State work very well independently and make a great difference in their local communities. The results of the survey suggest the potential of bringing North, South and Central New Jersey groups closer together to have a greater impact on the State of New Jersey as a whole.

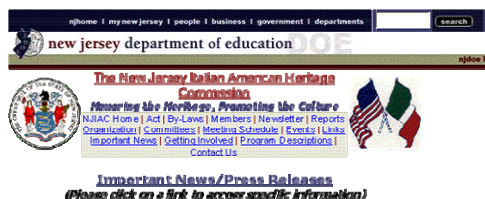




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## New Websites Launched

The Commission launched an upgraded version of its government website in August that incorporates more material for use by the general public. Based upon feedback generated by the surveys taken at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Italian American Leadership Convocation in March 2004, the content of the website now includes more community information and linkages to other Italian American and Italian organizations. The website was also modified to enable the Commissioners and the public to keep track of the many activities of the Commission.



**Important News Section of  
Commission Website**

Found on [www.njitalia.nj.gov](http://www.njitalia.nj.gov) are sections that contained abstracts of meetings of the Commission, its Committees and various task forces. The Reports section also enables the public to access Commission studies and the Events section lays the groundwork for a New Jersey Master Calendar of events throughout the State. The website also is designed to be in the top 5 Google Searches with a minimum of title words for the Commission.

In addition, the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation launched a website for its members and the public: [www.italiannewjersey.com](http://www.italiannewjersey.com). The website features information on the collaborative programs between the Commission and the Foundation and provides recent information on joining the membership of the Foundation.

The New Jersey Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies, located at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, is the operational body of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission for program implementation and administration. The Commission, located in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Education, was created pursuant to the enactment of P.L. 2001, Chapter 343 C.18A4-42 and signed into law on in January 2002. The Institute, a 501.c.3. entity with statewide jurisdiction, is charged with providing services to the public at large, as well as public, non-profit and other public service institutions in all twenty-one counties in New Jersey

**NJ Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies**  
**Scott Hall, Room 223**  
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